

**JAY OBERNOLTE**  
EIGHTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY**  
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT, RANKING  
MEMBER

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES**  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES  
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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April 28, 2022

Chair Rosa DeLauro  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Public Safety Radio System Upgrade in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of Mono, located at 451 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, California 93546.

The funding will be used for the maintenance of a public safety Land Mobile Radio System (LMRS). This system is jointly utilized by Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 11 independent fire districts, and the Eastern Sierra Unified School District. The system provides law enforcement (Mono County Sheriff and Mammoth Lakes Police Department), in-house emergency medical services, fire response, and administrative services with VHF radio service throughout the 3,500mi<sup>2</sup> county. The existing system is roughly 35 years old and is regularly failing. It was never properly engineered, no longer meets public safety grade standards, and poses significant risk and liability to agency personnel as well as the public we serve.

Mono County's rugged terrain contributes to the presence of multiple public safety communications dead zones along public rights-of-way and over a vast proportion of Federal and State recreational lands. The life safety risks inherent to these communications' coverage gaps - as well as the need for improved interoperability - were vividly exposed during California's most recent wildfire seasons.

The Mono County Information Technology Department is responsible for the County's public safety communications system and has been working collaboratively with state, county and local public safety stakeholders for the past six years to evaluate and determine a replacement plan.

The proposed program for which funding is requested includes subscribing to the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) radio system: the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS). This system is currently being built out in Mono County with a target go-live date of Fall 2022.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Obernolte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" being more prominent and stylized than the last name "Obernolte".

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Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress